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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:  
Mike Vaughn

Phone: (907) 747-6688  
Fax: (907) 747-6239

Sitka Area Office  
304 Lake St. Room 103  
Sitka, AK 99835  
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Time: 5:30 p.m.

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#### **2012 SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIRECTED LINGCOD FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the directed fishery for lingcod will open in the outside waters of the Southeast District, east of 144°00.00' W. long., at 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, May 16, 2012. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until harvest allocations are taken or 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2012, whichever occurs first.

#### **Directed Lingcod Fishery Allocations (round pounds):**

Management Area	Allocation
Icy Bay Sector (IBS)	*66,660
East Yakutat (EYKT)	111,000
Central Southeast Outside (CSEO)	86,400
Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO)	17,200
Southern Southeast Outer Coast (SSEOC)	50,100
*all gear commercial quota for directed lingcod, longline bycatch, and salmon troll bycatch fisheries	

#### **Closed Waters**

The waters of CSEO between the latitudes 56°55.50' N. and 56°57.00' N. and longitudes 135°54.00' W. and 135°57.00' W. (the Edgecumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve) and waters of Sitka Sound are closed to directed lingcod fishing. The closed waters of Sitka Sound are defined in 5 AAC 28.150(a) as the waters that are enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57°20.50' N. lat., 135°45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57°22.05' N. lat., 135°43.00' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57°22.58' N. lat., 135°41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57°22.28' N. lat., 135°40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56°59.38' N. lat., 135°49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56°51.92' N. lat., 135°30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56°49.28' N. lat., 135°22.60' W. long.

Vessels fishing in the Eastern Gulf should note that there are four federal Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Coral Habitat Protection Areas on the Fairweather Grounds in the EYKT Section and one near Cape Ommaney in the CSEO Section that are closed to all fishing with bottom contact gear including dinglebar and longline. Information on federal Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) including coral protection areas may be found at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/71fr36694.pdf>. The locations of the GOA Coral

Habitat Protection Areas are detailed in Table 26 to Part 679. For more information on HAPC areas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7228.

Directed fishing for lingcod is not permitted in the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI) or the Southern Southeast Internal Waters Sector (SSEIW).

**Groundfish Bycatch Allowances for the Directed Lingcod Fishery:** The bycatch allowance for each species or species group reflects the percentage that may be retained and sold and is based on the round weight of lingcod on board.

Species	Bycatch Allowance
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	10% EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC; IBS state waters (0-3 nm). 5% IBS federal waters (3-200 nm).
Black, Blue, and Dark Rockfish	15% in aggregate.
Other Rockfish and Thornyheads	5% in aggregate.
Pacific cod	20%.
Spiny dogfish	20%.
Sablefish	0%.
Other Groundfish	20% in aggregate.

### Miscellaneous Regulations

Lingcod may be taken in a directed lingcod fishery only by mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear, and hand troll gear. A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) "T" interim use permit is required for the directed fishery. Vessels fishing for groundfish with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D" and vessels fishing for groundfish with mechanical jigging machines must display the letter "M" (5AAC 28.135). In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, dinglebar troll gear is defined as a single line that is set and retrieved with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way [5AAC 28.130 (h)]. Vessels fishing with dinglebar troll gear may not operate more than one gurdy from the vessel at any time. All lingcod harvested must be a minimum of 27" in length from the tip of snout to the tip of tail, or 20.5" from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail.

The vessel owner or the owner's agent must register the vessel with the department prior to participating in the directed lingcod fishery. The IBS directed fishery is a super exclusive registration area and has its own registration form. A CFEC permit holder who participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the Icy Bay Subdistrict may not participate or have participated in the directed commercial taking of lingcod as a CFEC permit holder in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year. In March of 2012, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) amended the IBS registration regulation to restrict permit holders **and vessels** in the super exclusive fishery area. The BOF also set commercial lingcod allocations for the directed, longline, and salmon troll fisheries. As of the date of this news release, these new regulations are not in effect. The department will issue a news release announcing new groundfish regulations and their effective date when that information becomes available.

Full retention of DSR is required for CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish in all state waters (0-3 nm) and in federal waters (3-200 nm) of the Southeast Outside Subdistrict that are east of 140° W. long. The DSR assemblage includes yelloweye, quillback, canary, tiger, copper, china, and rosethorn rockfish. Full retention of black rockfish is also required in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area for permit holders fishing for groundfish. Full retention regulations require permit holders to retain, weigh, and report on a department fish ticket all DSR and black rockfish taken. All DSR and black rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported on a fish ticket as bycatch overage. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR taken in state waters and excess black rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Excess rockfish from state waters, retained due to full retention requirements, may be kept for a person's own use. DSR overage taken in federal waters may be retained for personal use or donated but cannot be sold or enter commerce.

If a vessel is used to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska and is required to retain any groundfish caught in the EEZ, the vessel must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP). Full retention of DSR in the EEZ is required by federal and state regulations. If the vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, the vessel is fishing for groundfish and must possess an FFP:

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/infobulletins/bulletin.asp?BulletinID=3571>. For information on FFPs contact NOAA Fisheries at 907-586-7202, 800-304-4846, or download an application at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/FFPAPP.pdf>. FFPs are not required for vessels fishing in state waters.

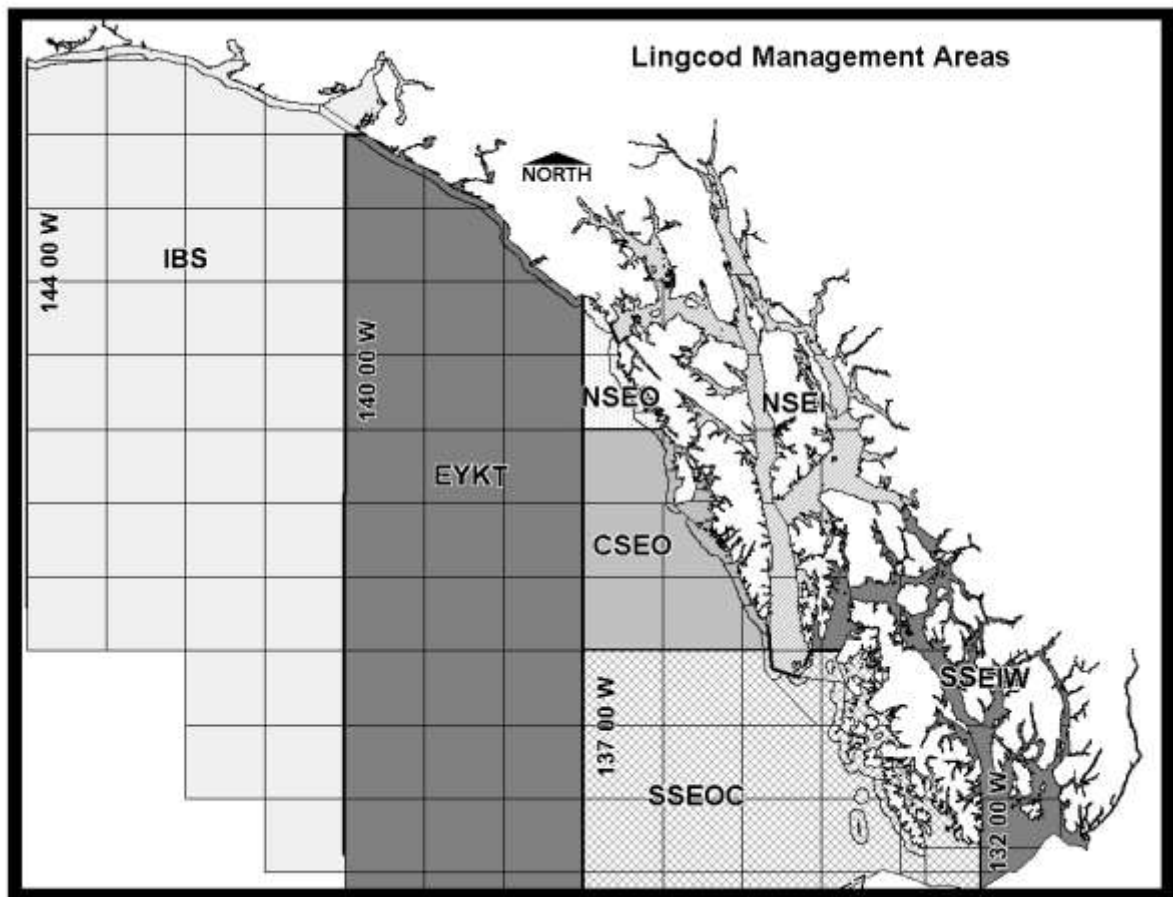
Department logbooks are required for the directed lingcod fishery and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the fish ticket documenting the landing. Logbook requirements are described in 5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks may be obtained at department area offices.

Fishermen should record the date, tag number, depth, and latitude and longitude of any lingcod tag recoveries. This information should be noted in the “comments” section of the corresponding logbook effort. Contact the department when offloading the fish in port. Hats will be rewarded for lingcod tag returns and individuals that provide the required capture information will qualify for an annual drawing for a \$250 prize.

Catch and effort will be closely monitored and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice. Lingcod closures will be announced by news release and on the United States Coast Guard “Notice to Mariners” report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Updates of area closures will also be announced on the Groundfish Hotline at 907-747-4882.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
<i>Groundfish Hotline</i>				747-4882				



**Figure 1. Southeast Alaska Lingcod Management Areas.**

**This map is for general reference only. For detailed descriptions of Lingcod Management Area boundaries, refer to 5AAC 28.105**